

# Local Focus Areas

part of Aberdeenshire's Land Use Pilot Project



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Based on inputs from Justin Irvine, Anja Byg, Alessandro Gimona, Andrea Baggio, Mads Trolberg, Inge Aalders and Carol Kyle.

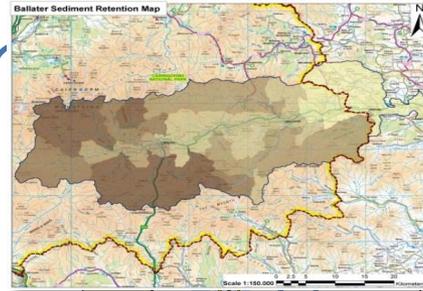
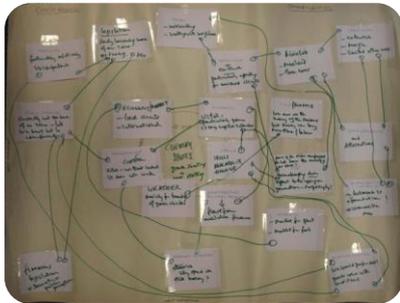


# Why have local focus areas?



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What type of future best meets the diverse preferences of local people?



Drivers of Land  
Manager  
behaviour

Land Manager  
types

Land Use  
Choices

Impacts on  
services and  
benefits



Factors which  
influence  
land/water use

Capturing benefits  
from the local area

Maps of some  
services in the  
area

Model linking drivers  
to choices to change  
& impacts

# Where did we work?

## Upper Dee

Upper Dee catchment

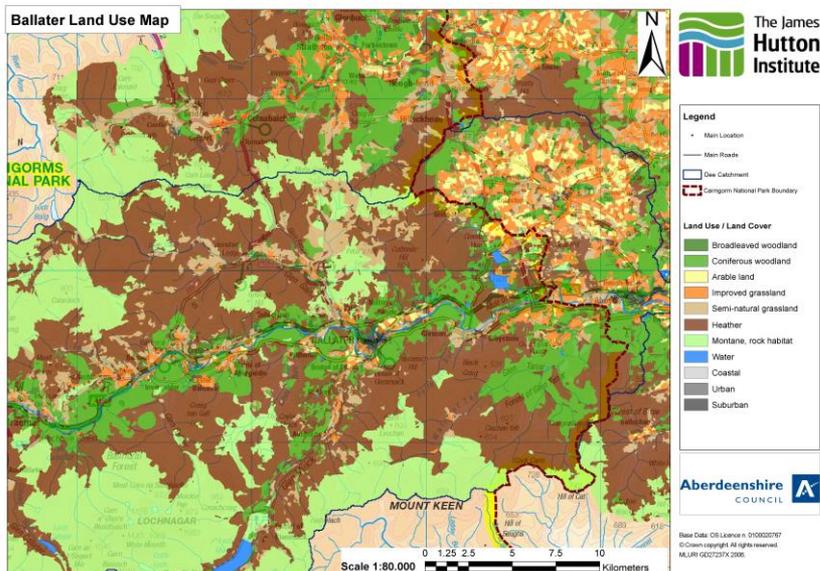
1, 319 Km<sup>2</sup>

Mostly large estates, few farms

Local settlements of Ballater (pop 1, 533)

Braemar (491) and Aboyne (2, 602)

Eastern side of Cairngorms National Park



## Huntly

Deveron and Bogie catchments

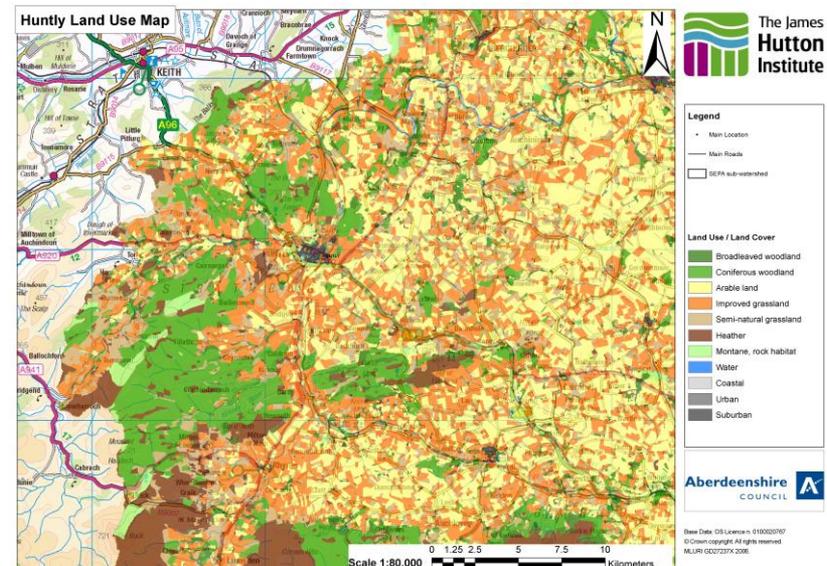
637 Km<sup>2</sup>

Many farms, plus forestry, sporting

estates and historic monuments

Local settlements of Huntly ( pop 4, 768 )

Rhynie (454) and Aberchirder (1, 237)



# Who was involved?

- Long list of +50 invitees for each area & press releases

	Ballater	Huntly
1 <sup>st</sup> Workshop	14 participants	28 participants
2 <sup>nd</sup> Workshop	14 participants	17 participants
3 <sup>rd</sup> Workshop	8 participants	15 participants

- Representing farming; forestry; sporting; tourism and recreation; arts; mental health; agencies (SEPA, SNH, CNPA); NGOs (RSPB; Aberdeenshire Access Forum); community councils and Aberdeenshire Council
- In-depth process over more than a year - many individuals attended all three
- Lack of strong land manager input, particularly from estates

# Findings



Benefits and conflicts



Complex systems



Land management

Increasing pressure on land



# Multiple benefits & conflicts



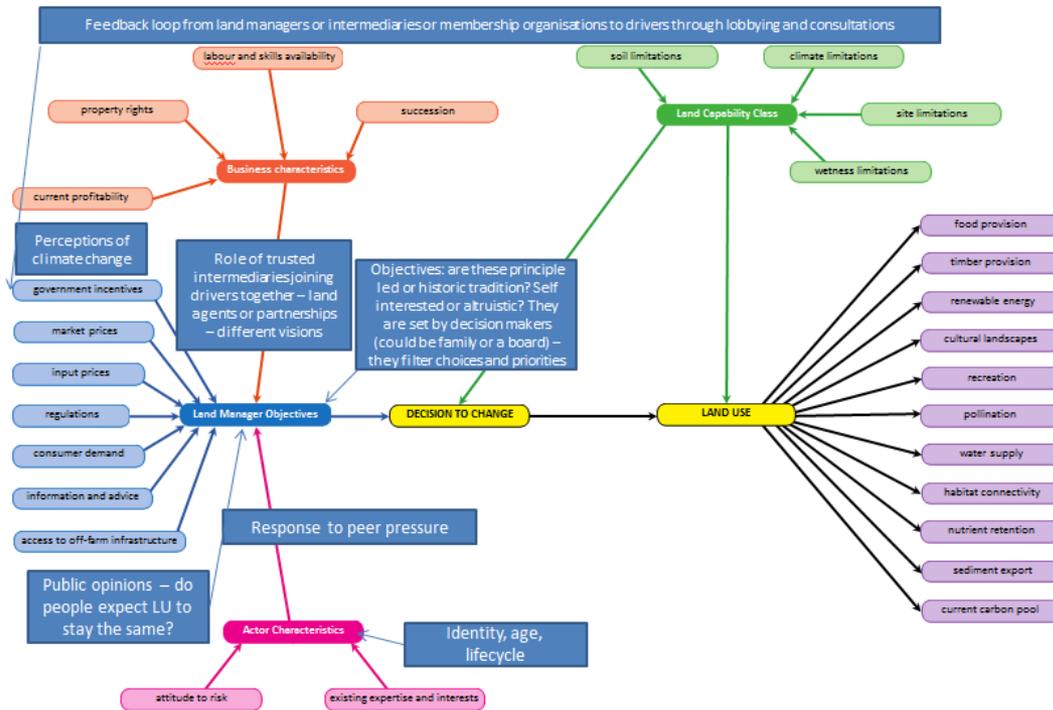
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- +80 benefits identified by +40 participants
- Clear idea of where the conflicts occur -  
anticipated many of the regional policy questions
- Strong focus on who provides & who enjoys these benefits from the land; and who influences change
- Interesting 'moral' component about what land is for and multiple roles in its stewardship
- Clear message that benefits to rural society and economy matter – linking services to supply chains, sense of place, local employment etc



# Complex Systems

- Simplified version of the system both leaves out lots of important issues & is too hard to model!



- Missing feedback loops – quality and quantity of services should inform drivers and decisions

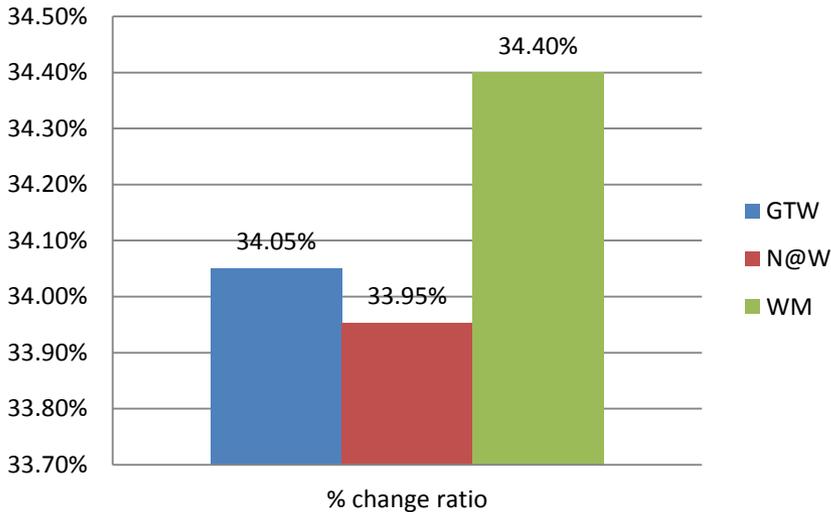
# Land Management

- Focus on the scientific modelling was land use change
- Focus of deliberation was often about land management
- E.g. not just forestry but what type of trees, planted where and managed how?
- Also behaviour of land users e.g. benefits from provision of paths depends on responsible access

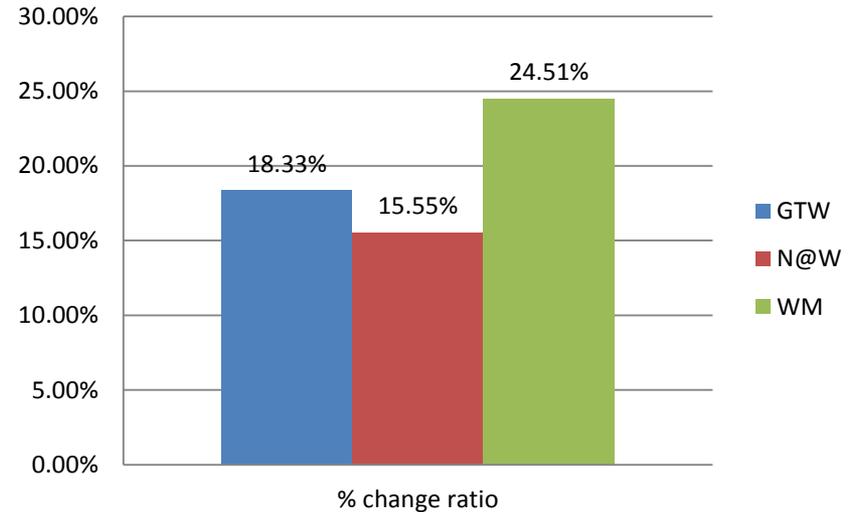


# Increasing Pressures

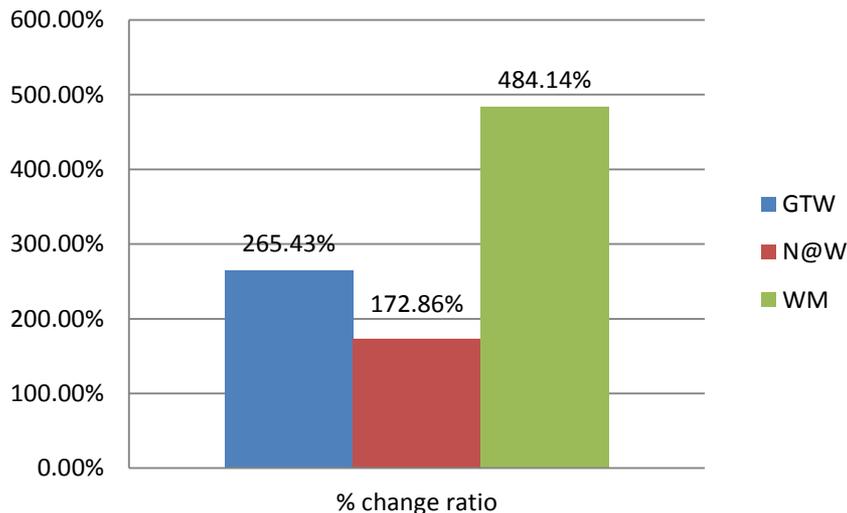
## Sediment Export from Baseline %



## Nutrient Export from Baseline %



## Carbon Emission from Baseline %



- Three scenarios of the future under climate change - Go with the Flow; Nature@Work and World Markets
- All scenarios, including Nature@work, showed a deterioration in the environment
- Continued attention to mitigation of climate change & other drivers is needed



# Key messages



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- Focussing on clear and concrete activities was most useful for engaging local people
- Local stakeholders understand system complexity, could identify potential solutions and were aware of benefits arising from natural assets
- Emphasis continued to be put on visible 'services' e.g. providing crops or enjoying the landscape, with less focus on invisible but vital components of the ecosystem e.g. soil carbon
- Many barriers were identified to integrated land and water management, spanning individual choices and behaviour through to international trade patterns



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# Thank you for listening!

## Acknowledgements

- Workshop participants who shared their knowledge and opinions
- Colleagues from James Hutton Institute and Aberdeenshire Council
- Scottish Government Environmental Change Programme (2011-16)
- More information at: <http://www.hutton.ac.uk/research/workshops>